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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY - 8 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Calling Party Pays Service)
Option in the Commercial Mobile) WT Docket No. 97-207
Radio Service)

COMMENTS OF NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the March 9, 1998 Public Notice of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"), Nextel Communications, Inc. ("Nextel") respectfully submits these Comments on the Petition for Expedited Consideration ("Petition") of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association ("CTIA"), filed in the above-captioned proceeding on February 23, 1998.

Nextel supports CTIA's request that the Commission expeditiously consider the Calling Party Pays ("CPP") option for the Commercial Mobile Radio Services ("CMRS") industry. CPP services, as the record in this proceeding indicates, are of significant competitive interest to most CMRS carriers in the United States. Given the numerous issues that must be resolved to ensure its proper and effective implementation, the Commission should expeditiously release a Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("NPRM") to consider and resolve these issues so American consumers can enjoy the flexibility and benefits available through a CPP service option.

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II. DISCUSSION

In October 1997, the Commission released a Notice of Inquiry ("NOI") on the CMRS CPP service option.^{1/} More than 25 parties filed Comments on the NOI, the majority of which believe CPP can be a significant benefit to consumers.^{2/} Only five commenters voiced opposition to CPP services,^{3/} and only one of those five - SBC Communications, Inc. -- expressly stated that the Commission should not open a rule making proceeding on CPP.^{4/} Given the demonstrated interest in CPP among CMRS carriers, CTIA submitted its Petition on February 23, 1998 in an effort to speed Commission consideration of the CPP service. Rather than expediting the process, however, the Commission issued the current Public Notice seeking further comment on the issue.

As the expert agency for telecommunications services, the Commission should move forward and expeditiously consider the possible implementation of CPP services in the CMRS industry in the

^{1/} Notice of Inquiry, FCC 97-341, released October 23, 1997.

^{2/} See, e.g., Comments of Airtouch Communications, Inc. ("Airtouch"); AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. ("AT&T Wireless"); Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association ("CTIA"); GTE Service Corp. ("GTE"); Motorola, Inc. ("Motorola"); Nokia Telecommunications, Inc. ("Nokia"); Omnipoint Communications, Inc. ("Omnipoint"); Personal Communications Industry Association ("PCIA"); The Rural Telecommunications Group; United States Cellular Corp. ("US Cellular"); and Vanguard Cellular Systems, Inc. ("Vanguard").

^{3/} Comments of Bell Atlantic; Bellsouth Corp. ("Bellsouth"); Bay Springs Telephone Co. et al. ("Bay Springs"); SBC Communications, Inc.; and United States Telephone Association ("USTA").

^{4/} Comments of SBC at p. 2.

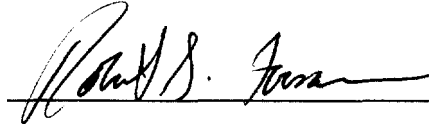
U.S. The October 1997 NOI resulted in a wealth of information from a number of varying sources, and elicited significant support for the service option. The Commission, therefore, has established a sufficient record from which it can move forward with an NPRM.

As set forth in its NOI Comments, Nextel fully supports the use of CPP services as a means of promoting the overall usefulness and efficiency of the telecommunications infrastructure in the U.S. and as a means of enhancing consumers' competitive choices for wireless services. However, to make CPP a viable alternative and to give it an opportunity to succeed in the marketplace, the Commission must assert its jurisdiction and provide consistent national guidelines for CPP services. Nextel recognizes, however, that these jurisdictional issues, as well as others, are subject to debate. It is the resolution of these conflicting views that requires expeditious action by the Commission to make CPP implementation feasible on a widespread basis. The Commission should release an NPRM requesting specific comment from the industry so that it can resolve these issues, adopt consistent nationwide standards and thus enable carriers that so desire to implement CPP services.

For these reasons, Nextel fully supports CTIA's Petition and respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously initiate a notice and comment proceeding to consider and resolve the issues

currently preventing the introduction of consistent CPP services nationwide.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Foosaner", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert S. Foosaner
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Date: May 8, 1998

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rochelle L. Pearson, hereby certify that on this 8th day of May 1998, I caused a copy of the attached Comments of Nextel Communications, Inc. to be served by hand delivery to the following:

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rochelle L. Pearson", written in black ink.

Rochelle L. Pearson